



9/21/04

CONFERENCE REPORTS

HB 5509 (Shulman)

Agriculture budget

- The Senate adopted the conference report to HB 5509 [RC 650: 32 yes, 6 no (Detroit DEMS)]. Immediate Effect was given to the report.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 774 (BERNERO)

SB 774 would allow the MEDC to enter into an agreement with East Lansing-Lansing (or another municipality that adopted a resolution by the deadline) to create a SmartZone, thus giving the area an economic development tool to attract high-technology industries. This could diversify the area's economic base, and attract new capital investment and new high-paying jobs. The House Committee on Commerce adopted a substitute. The only change from the Senate-passed version of the bill is the extension of the deadline for the parties to enter into an agreement to December 31, 2005 from December 31, 2004.

- The Senate agreed to the House changes to SB 774 [RC 649: 38 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1130 (Brown)

SB 1130 would transfer the responsibilities afforded to the Department of Agriculture to the newly created MI Exposition and Fairgrounds Authority. Such responsibilities include conducting the fair, leasing fair buildings, entering into contracts, reporting to the legislature. The authority will have the ability to promulgate rules and current rules governing the State Fair will not be rescinded.

7/6:

- Committee 1 (S-3) was defeated. An amendment was added in committee that would ban automobile racing and gambling at the state fair.
- Brown 2 (S-4) was adopted.
- HB 1130 was moved to 3rd Reading.

9/21:

- THOMAS 1 (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. This would have given more input on the State Fair Authority to local communities impacted by any decisions concerning the Fair.
- SB 1130 passed [RC 654: 30 yes, 7 no (DEMS)].

HB 5534 (DeRossett)

HB 5782 (DeRossett)

HB 5534 allow a person who had a (Michigan Education Savings Program) education savings account to claim a State income tax deduction for contributions made after a withdrawal from the account. Currently, a deduction is not allowed, however, for contributions to an education savings account in the tax year in which the initial withdrawal is made or any subsequent year. The bill would delete that restriction. Under the bill, a taxpayer could deduct the total of all contributions made to an education savings account in a tax year, less qualified withdrawals made during the tax year.

- HB 5534 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.
- HB 5534 passed with IE [RC 651: 37 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

HB 5782 would amend the Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP) to: 1) Delete the requirement that distributions from an MESP account be used to pay for qualified expenses incurred after the account is established. 2) Permit an estate or trust to establish an MESP account. 3) Expand the permissible methods for making contributions to MESP accounts. 4) Allow an account owner to transfer ownership of an MESP account to another eligible individual or entity.

- HB 5782 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.
- HB 5782 passed with IE [RC 652: 37 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

HB 5783 (DeRossett)

HB 5783 would amend the Michigan Education Trust (MET) Act to allow local governments and charitable organizations to enter into MET contracts and exempt certain information from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. [The MET Act allows individuals to enter into a contract with the Trust for the advance payment of tuition for qualified beneficiaries to attend a State institution of higher education, without further tuition costs to the beneficiary. The program generally does not cover certain required fees, room, board, and books.]

- Allen 1 (2 amends) was adopted.
- HB 5782 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 5782 passed with IE [RC 653: 37 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

THIRD READING

HB 5527 (Shulman)

HB 5527 is part of the budget target agreements reached on 9/2/04. This bill will shift some 2003-04 items funded with General Funds to state restricted revenues to provide the needed General Funds to meet year-end short falls.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.

- Hammerstrom 1A (1 amend) was adopted.
- PRUSI 1B was defeated. This would have returned \$14 million for manned gun towers in the Dept. of Corrections budget.
- HB 5527 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 5809 (Palsrok)

HB 5809 would provide immunity from civil liability to businesses involved in the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of food, for injury or death arising out of weight gain or obesity (except under circumstances involving adulteration, misbranding, or a willful violation of law). Specifically, the businesses would not be subject to civil liability for personal injury or death arising out of weight gain, obesity, or a health condition associated with weight gain or obesity. HB 5809 would prohibit a political subdivision of the State from filing, prosecuting, or joining a civil action allowed under the bill, on its own behalf or on behalf of its citizens or another class of persons.

- HB 5809 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.